

Re: clipping through-hole leads

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.equipment/2005-12/msg00063.html>

- *From:* "James T. White" <SPAMjtwhiteGUARD@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 14 Dec 2005 20:11:28 -0600
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"Walter Harley" <walterh@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:eqKdnVPhU6Q-wj3enZ2dnUVZ_s-dnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
> In commercial through-hole PCB manufacturing (I know, this is like asking
> about commercial horse-and-buggy manufacturing...), how are the component
> leads clipped off after insertion and/or soldering?
>
> Is there some sort of spinning-saw-blade arrangement, or a dozen underpaid
> workers with wirecutters, or ... ?
>

Walter,

For high volume work there are Lead Saws that are used to trim the component leads after the board has been wave soldered. You can see one here -> <http://www.esuinc.com/lead.asp>. The board is secured, solder side up, in a jig and the cutting blade moves over the top. It's called a saw but some have "blades" that more resemble a surface mill.

For low volume stuff simple wire cutters are used. For somewhat higher volumes, air powered cutters are used to minimize operator fatigue and repetitive motion injuries.

I suspect that where labor costs are low and worker health isn't an issue, even higher volumes may be done by hand.

Hope this helps.

James T. White

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- ◇ *From:* KC

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- ◇ *From:* Walter Harley

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